

Message Text

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FM AMEMBASSY BONN

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DEPARTMENT PASS DOT

E. O. 11652: N/A

TAGS: TGEN, ETRA

SUBJECT: FRG- US TALKS ON HSGT COOPERATION

REF: A. STATE 084196 B. STATE 090233

1. SUMMARY. US DEPARTMENT OF TRANSPORTATION (DOT) DELEGATION VISITED FRG FACILITIES FOR RESEARCH AND DEVELOPMENT (R & D) ON MAGNETIC- LEVITATED HIGH SPEED GROUND TRANSPORTATION (HSGT) SYSTEMS. DISCUSSIONS WERE FRANK AND OPEN, ALTHOUGH BOTH INDUSTRIAL AND GOVERNMENTAL OFFICERS NOTED DIFFICULTIES IN SHARING INDUSTRIAL TECHNOLOGY IN THIS FIELD. DOT DELEGATION AND OFFICIALS OF FRG MINISTRIES OF TRANSPORTATION (BMV) AND OF RESEARCH AND TECHNOLOGY (BMFT) ACCEPTED, AD REFERENDUM, A DRAFT MEMORANDUM OF UNDERSTANDING COVERING BILATERAL COOPERATION IN LEVITATED HSGT SYSTEMS. END SUMMARY.

2. FIVE- MAN DOT DELEGATION (REF A GROUP PLUS DOUGLAS SIEGEL, ACCOMPANIED BY EMBASSY SCIENTIFIC ATTACHE, VISITED MAGNETIC- LEVITATED HSGT R& D FACILITIES OPERATED BY KRAUSS- MAFFEI MBB AND BY SIEMENS, AEG AND BBC DURING WEEK MAY 14-18. INDUSTRY REPS WELCOMED VISIT AND OPENLY DISCUSSED PROGRAM STATUS AND PLANS, ALTHOUGH ALL REFERRED TO COMMERCIAL VALUE OF TECHNOLOGY UNDER UNCLASSIFIED UNCLASSIFIED

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DEVELOPMENT AND NEED FOR QUID PRO QUO SHOULD TECHNOLOGY

BE TRANSFERRED.

3. DISCUSSIONS WITH FRG REPRESENTATIVES, LED BY DEPUTY ASSISTANT SECRETARY OF TECHNOLOGY, DR. FINKE, WERE EQUALLY OPEN AND FRANK. FINKE EMPHASIZED THAT FRG WOULD WELCOME MUTUALLY ADVANTAGEOUS BILATERAL COOPERATION WITH U. S. HE OUTLINED A SPECTRUM OF POSSIBILITIES, RANGING FROM SIMPLE EXCHANGE OF INFORMATION TO JOINTLY-FINANCED PROJECT BUT THEN EXPLAINED THAT FRG COULD NOT RPT NOT ESTABLISH EXCLUSIVE COOPERATIVE RELATIONSHIP WITH US. UNFORTUNATELY, HE NOTED, ATLANTIC OCEAN SEPARATES US FROM FRG AND JOINT DEVELOPMENT WITH US OF HSGT SYSTEM WOULD BE DIFFICULT. FRG MUST COOPERATE CLOSELY WITH ITS NEIGHBORS BECAUSE ANY HSGT SYSTEM WOULD BE EUROPEAN EFFORT.

4. FINKE THEN TABLED DRAFT MEMORANDUM OF UNDERSTANDING COVERING BILATERAL COOPERATION ON " AGENCY- TO- AGENCY" BASIS IN DEVELOPEMENT OF LEVITATED TRACK- BOUND TRANSPORTATION SYSTEMS.

PARTICIPANTS WOULD BE MINISTRIES OF TRANSPORTATION AND OF RESEARCH AND TECHNOLOGY ON FRG SIDE AND US DEPARTMENT OF TRANSPORTATION FOR USG. DRAFT MEMORANDUM OF UNDERSTANDING WAS REVISED IN BILATERAL DISCUSSIONS AND ACCEPTED BY BOTH SIDES ON AD REFERNDUM BASIS. DOT DELEGATION CARRYING COPY.

5. REF B REPORTS THAT US SECRETARY OF TRANSPORTATION BRINEGAR PLANS VISIT BONN IN MID JUNE. SUGGEST THIS MAY PROVIDE EXCELLENT OPPORTUNITY FOR HIM TO SIGN DOT- BRW/ BMFT AGREEMENT. HILLENBRAND

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